



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,361	09/30/2003	Tomohiro Takahashi	Q77771	4357
23373	7590	08/12/2008		
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			EXAMINER	POON, HOA K
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
08/12/2008	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/673,361	Applicant(s) TAKAHASHI ET AL.
	Examiner HOA POON	Art Unit 2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 9-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 30, 2008 has been entered.

1. This Office Action is in response to amendment filed June 30, 2008.

- Claims 1- 8 and 12-15 have been canceled by the Applicant.
- The Applicant amended claims 9, 10 and 11.
- Claims 9 -11 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claim 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida et al. (Patent No: 6,219,156) in view of Takahito (JP 10079843).**

Regarding claim 9:

Yoshida discloses:

A printing method for printing a print image on a medium comprising:
a step of storing (Col. 13, line 61-62, the input image memory 302), in a memory area, image data that has been generated by reading an image in an original (Col. 13, line 60, the original is scanned by the image reader IR);

performing an area determination for determining which area, in the original, is an area in which a print image exists (Col. 13, line 22-28, determining the effective area; detecting boundary lines A and B, and also Col. 14, line 18-20, the boundary A is fixed or determined and also see Fig. 19, the area contains letter A), together with performing printing on a first sheet, (Col. 8, line 56-60, output of the data for the first page corresponds to performing printing on a first sheet after image has been read by the image reader) based on the image data that has been generated by reading the image in the original;

Yoshida discloses the area determination of the original image, but does not disclose the whether the determined area can be stored or not. However, Takahito discloses:

determining whether or not the whole image data corresponding to the area that has been determined can be stored (Para. [0010], when judged with there being much capacity of an image memory), in terms of size, in said memory area based on a result of said area determination; and

if it is determined that the whole image data can be stored in terms of size (Para. [0023], when judge there being much capacity),

storing data (Para. [0023], storing those image data of all for 1 page in the image memory 4) that has been re-read for the image in the original, which is limited to the area only, in said memory area (Para. [0023], A part for page 1 is read with a scanner 1), and

performing printing up to the preset number of sheets from a second sheet based on the image data in said memory area, (Para. [0023], printout by printer 2 using the image data stored in memory 4 is repeated continuously two or more copies is performed)

if it is determined that the whole image data cannot be stored in terms of size (Para. [0023], when judge memory with being little capacity),

performing a reading operation of the original, every time printing is performed (Para. [0023], it reads one line at time with scanner 1 and prints it in parallel with reading operation), and

performing printing up to the preset number of sheets from the second sheet, using image data from the reading operation. (Para. [0023], two or more copies is performed)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Yoshida and Takahito to provide a printing system that is capable of read, store and print only where the print data area is detected and this printing system is also capable of read and print simultaneously without storing

wasteful printing data in order to efficiently utilized printers with small amount of memory.

Regarding claim 10:

A printing method according to claim 9, wherein:

a scan width for which an image-reading section for reading the image in said original is moved is changed, (Col. 16, line 22-25, if determined the lateral size of the original is not fixed corresponds to the scan width of the said original is moved is changed)so as to read only the area upon re-reading the image in said original. (Col. 16, line 25, boundary A in fig. 19 is detected indicates the process of re-reading the said original)

Regarding claim 11:

A printing method according to claim 9, wherein:

a scan width for which an image-reading section for reading the image in said original is moved is not changed (Col. 16, line 25-26, if the lateral size of the original is fixed corresponds to the scan width of said original is not changed) upon re-reading the image in said original, and

image data of the area is extracted from the data that has been re-read and is stored in said memory area. (Fig. 27, step #6-13 and step #6-18, if lateral size is fixed, the current band is started to be compressed means the readable part of the image data area is extracted and stored in memory band, also see col. 4, line 4-11)

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HOA POON whose telephone number is (571)270-3758. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm M-F EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Zimmerman can be reached on (571) 272-7653. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hoa Poon/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

**/Mark K Zimmerman/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625**